

Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0024

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # D-096 - Sewage Treatment Plant Rotary
Biofilter {Historic}
Property Date: 1954
Address(s): Reeder Road {Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: CHINCOTEAGUE WEST
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status
Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	other

Site Description: Located within the Sewage Treatment Plant complex on north side of Reeder Road. Located in the northeast corner where the grade begins to slope upwards towards the northeast.

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Public Works	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Public Works

<u>Est. Date of Construction:</u>	1954 {Owner/written data}	<u>Accessed?</u>	Yes
<u>Primary Resource?</u>	Yes	<u>Number of Stories:</u>	0.0
<u>Architectural Style:</u>	Other	<u>Condition:</u>	Good-Fair
<u>Interior Plan Type:</u>	Other	<u>Threats to Resource:</u>	Deterioration Neglect

Description: The structure is a shallow circular-shaped poured concrete basin that has been sunken into the ground, projecting a few feet above grade. Two square-shaped airshafts project from the outside perimeter, directly across from one another. The shafts provide access to a water-filled channel that extends beneath the basin, connecting the two openings. At the southwest airshaft, a metal cone is located in between two notches cut into the rim of the circular wall. The cone has a threaded iron rod that extends upward to which a metal flywheel is attached at the top. The wheel controls a valve opening located at the base of the shaft that allows water to flow from the shaft into the channel and vice-versa. The notching likely served as an overflow, at which time the flywheel could be turned, opening the valve allowing the overflow to enter the chamber running beneath the structure. The surface of the basin is covered with stones. In the center of the basin, there is a concrete element that supports a metal post to which four metal arms are attached, perpendicular to one another. The four arms extend out to the inside edge of the exterior wall. The metal apparatus rotates during operation. The arms of the apparatus have small regularly spaced spouts, with distribution flanges to disburse spray over the surface. The arms are supported by cabling that is attached from one arm to another and from the top of the metal post to the outside edge of each arm.

Cemetery Information

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Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

Significance Statement: This structure, built in 1954, was constructed as part of the second phase of development of the sewage treatment plant. The plant was one of two such complexes built on Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) during World War II. The structure is located just north of the Sewage and Waste Disposal Pump House (001-0027-0015, WFF # D-012), beyond the end of the access road into the fenced sewage treatment plant compound.

The utilitarian structure is a component of a sewage treatment plant constructed during the New Dominion (1945 - present) period. The treatment plant was built to service CNAAS. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. Although it does not appear to be in use currently, the structure has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base. The Sewage Treatment Plant Rotary Biofilter has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The Sewage Treatment Plant Rotary Biofilter retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Although remaining in its historic location, the structure's integrity of setting and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding environment of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the structure's historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

**Department of Historic Resources
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Accomack

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Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: Giffels and Valet

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21541	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 24-27
35mm B&W	21528	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 23-24

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2004/07/99

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2003/08/08

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814